

Rainfall floods roads, kills 3 in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Heavy rains have flooded roads and homes in Israel and were blamed for the deaths of three teenagers whose car was swept away in the flooding, police said Saturday. Searchers found the bodies of the teenagers along the Sorek River near Rehovot, about 25 kilometres south of Tel Aviv. Flood waters carried their car away after it got stuck on a bridge early Saturday, Israel Radio said. The Yarkon River, which flows through Tel Aviv, crested in three spots causing heavy flooding in some areas, the radio said. In the Haifa bay area, some 90 kilometres north of Tel Aviv, some families were evacuated from flooded homes. Israel Radio said. Power lines were down and some wells had collapsed, but no injuries were reported. It was the second time this winter that heavy rains caused flooding along Israel's lowlands. Ironically, this arid land has suffered a drought for about five years, and was on the verge of rationing drinking water last summer. Earlier this month, seven days of torrential rains blocked major highways and caused the death of two Israeli soldiers and two Arabs.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Floods hit Lebanon; at least 1 killed

BEIRUT (AP) — Floods caused by torrential rains rushed through the streets Saturday as water and heavy winds knocked down power cables and disrupted communications across the country. Police said at least one person was killed — a coffee vendor drowned after his car was swept away by waves battering the coast in the worst winter storm since 1987. Several rivers in the north and south were also flooded by week-long rains. Police said uprooted power poles caused a total blackout in Beirut and several mountain regions. All roads above 900 metres were blocked by snow. Authorities Friday night rescued 2,000 people trapped on the mountain road linking Beirut to the central Bekaa Valley. The floods isolated dozens of villages. At least three bridges on the main Beirut-Damascus highway east of the capital were closed. Radios blared police and civil defence warnings to avoid damaged roads, especially in mountainous areas where the rains were heavier.

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Syria recognises ex-Soviet republics

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria recognised Saturday Russia and the other 10 former Soviet republics which have agreed to form the commonwealth of independent states. A Foreign Ministry statement said Syria was also establishing diplomatic and consular relations with the 11 newly independent states. The other 10 states are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Only Georgia has not agreed to join the new commonwealth. The ministry said Syria's embassy in Moscow would serve as embassy to Russia and at the same time represent Syria in the other states until new embassies are opened there.

Angry crowd blocks St. Petersburg street

MOSCOW (AP) — An angry crowd of about 200 people blocked the main street of St. Petersburg after they failed to get their share of sausage at a nearby shop, a news agency reported. In the southern city of Rostov-on-Don, 16 people were gravely injured, including four who suffered severe skull and brain damage, when heavy snow and ice fell from a roof on a crowd of customers waiting for vodka, Rostov-on-Don reported. The newspaper did not say when the incident took place. The Russian Information Agency said that police on Nevsky Prospekt, a wide boulevard in the centre of former Leningrad, stood by as people shouted angrily against the policies of the Russian government. Moscow and St. Petersburg have been among the Russian cities hardest hit by food shortages as agricultural regions and other former Soviet republics keep their produce for themselves.

Bahrain releases detained professor

BAHRAIN (R) — A Bahraini professor detained on Dec. 14 for criticising Gulf Arab governments was released on bail Saturday, relatives said. Sheikh Abdul Latif Al Mahmoud, associate professor of Islamic Studies at Bahrain University, was held at Bahrain airport on his return from Kuwait. He had told a seminar in Kuwait that Gulf ruling families did not deserve their privileges and should not be free to use their countries' wealth as they chose. Official sources said he was detained because his speech "was contrary to the laws of the land, which require people to be respectful to the heads of state in the area." Prof. Mahmoud was one of several professors from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries who criticised the 10-year-old alliance for failing to achieve progress at the seminar.

Kabul rally disrupted

KABUL (R) — A rare rally in the Afghan capital by supporters of the former King Zahir Shah was disrupted by a rival group Saturday, as government security forces watched without intervening, witnesses said. The rally, organised by New York-based Afghan businessman Zia Khan Narsi, was the second in Kabul in favour of the former king during the 13-year Afghan civil war. The first such rally on Nov. 13 was broken up by plainclothes officers of the Khat state security police.

Britain urges end to Somali violence

LONDON (R) — Britain called on Saturday for a ceasefire between the warring clans of Mogadishu to end what the United Nations has called a nightmare of violence in Somalia. "The British government is deeply concerned at the continued fighting in the Somali capital," Overseas Aid Minister Lynda Chalker said in a statement. A United Nations report on Friday said as many as 20,000 people — mostly women and children — have been killed or wounded in a month of ethnic fighting in the Somali capital. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Friday called Mogadishu a "nightmare of violence" and said a team of U.N. aid workers was being sent into the city.

Islamists set to control Algerian parliament

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Muslim fundamentalists are in position to gain control of parliament after taking an overwhelming lead in Algeria's first free legislative elections and gathering momentum for a second-round ballot. They are also pressing for early presidential elections.

With results for 206 of the 430 seats, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had won outright victories in 167 races, leaving it 49 seats short of an absolute majority even before the Jan. 16 runoff vote.

Officials have three days to reveal results from Thursday's vote, but there was no word on final tallies would be announced.

Impact on life in Algeria from the stunning political turn was not immediately clear. The fundamentalists won support with a simple slogan: "No constitution and no laws. The only rule is the Koran and the law of God."

Some clerics speaking at Friday prayers called for Algerians to change their secular ways. Other spoke of tolerance and power-sharing.

Provisional FIS leader Abdul Kader Hachani, asked whether the FIS could fail to take control of the next parliament, told a news conference Friday night it was "a probability which is absolutely ruled out."

"We shall demand presidential elections in order to stop parliament's prerogatives being curtailed," he added.

Earlier this week, the FIS called for presidential elections immediately after the second round of parliamentary voting.

President Chadli Benjedid, elected in 1988 for a third consecutive five-year term, has promised presidential elections before 1993 but he has not set a date.

The early results seemed to spell the end of Algeria's days as a secular state which kept religion and politics apart.

The size of the FIS victory appeared to stun all but the Islamists, who immediately called on their opponents to repent.

Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali blamed the Islamists' election success on small democratic parties which had split the vote away from the old ruling party, the National Liberation Front (FLN).

"It's a loss for all the democratic parties. But that can be corrected if these parties get a grasp of things, if they realise what is really at stake," Mr. Ghazali told French television.

The official figures, for seats where one candidate won an absolute majority, were given by Interior Minister Larbi Belkheir, who said the FLN was trailing in third place with 16 seats, behind the Socialist Forces Front with 20.

The prospect tens of thousands of Algerians fleeing harsh Islamic rule for a better life in Europe sent shudders Saturday across the Mediterranean in France.

Political groups and media warned that the FIS victory could spark a wave of unwanted immigration.

Jacques Roseau, head of a right-wing group of former French colonists called Recours-France, urged the government to cut commercial ties with Algeria if the fundamentalists win.

"If the FIS takes power in Algeria, France will suffer the perverse side effects, notably the exodus of Algerians fleeing the 'Islamic paradise'," Mr. Roseau said.

The newspaper Le Telegramme de Brest evoked "boat people on the Mediterranean," while Le Figaro wrote of "tens of thousands of Algerians ... disembarking in Marseille."

The reactions showed that, 29 years after Algerian nationalists expelled the French in a bloody eight-year war for liberation, relations between the two countries are tightly intertwined.

France is Algeria's largest trading partner, and French is widely spoken there. A law passed in Algeria this year making Arabic the sole official language brought protests from Paris.

An estimated 700,000 Algerians live in France, part of a community of Muslim immigrants numbering 3.5 billion. Their integration is the secular country's most explosive social issue.

The extreme-right National Front, which vows to expel foreigners from the country, plays on French fears that the country is being invaded by foreigners.

The front regularly scores 15 per cent in public opinion surveys. Other parties, even the governing Socialists, have vowed tougher immigration policies to blunt its appeal.

Bruno Megret, the National Front's number-two leader, said that the Algerian vote "is laden with threat and shows once more that the national front is right about immigration."

President Francois Mitterrand's government was silent, presumably waiting to see how the second round plays out.

But Michel Vauzelle, a leading politician of the governing Socialist Party, said that France could not turn its back on the sprawling country it ruled from 1830 until 1962.

"We have to see, once this party is in power, how it behaves," he said in an interview on Radio Monte Carlo.

A wave of immigrants would come at a bad time. Economic

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan's Islamic movement jubilant

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Islamic movement, particularly the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, is jubilant over the sweeping victory that Islamists secured in the Algerian general elections and sees it as a forerunner of the emergence of the power of Islam through the ballot in the Arab World.

"No doubt the news of the victory of the Islamists in Algeria and the advances of the Islamic (Salvation) Front (FIS) is very positive and makes us very happy," said Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al Khalifeh, spiritual leader of the Brotherhood in Jordan.

The FIS, which challenged the traditionally dominant National Liberation Front (FLN) in last Thursday's elections, bagged 167 of the 206 seats where outright majority winners were declared Friday.

Winners of the rest of the seats in the 430-strong assembly will be determined in a second round next month, pitting the two leading candidates in the first round (see separate story).

"The Algerian government deserves gratitude for organising free and democratic elections that led to this happy result, which heartened all Muslims," Sheikh Khalifeh told the Jordan Times.

According to Sheikh Khalifeh, who guides the Brotherhood which won 22 seats in Jordan's first multi-party elections in 22 years in November 1989, the Islamic movement supports "democratic and free elections in all Arab countries."

We are also very happy that (the Islamic movement) has reached the level of government after putting up a strong opposition and managed to secure complete freedom for all the people of Algeria," he added.

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KING, QUEEN RETURN: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home from London Saturday after a several-day private visit to the United Kingdom. King Hussein was received at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince

Hassan, His Royal Highness Ali Ben Al Hussein, several members of the royal family, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Adnan Abu Odeh, and senior officials.

Libya hits renewal of sanctions by Bush

ROME (Agencies) — The Libyan foreign ministry Saturday condemned the renewal of economic sanctions against Libya by the U.S. administration, which asserts Libya's regime still supports "terrorism."

A few days earlier, President George Bush sent the U.S. Congress a letter in which he stated Libya's government still makes use of and supports "international terrorism."

The notice allows the renewal of economic sanctions, including a ban of U.S. business deals with Libya. The sanctions were adopted in January 1986.

Libya's foreign ministry, in a statement carried by the official Libyan news agency JANA, said the sanctions renewal was "further escalation of the arbitrary and tyrannical measures which contradict the principles of international law and the aims of the United Nations."

U.S. judicial authorities have been seeking the extradition of two Libyans accused of planning the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Scotland, but Libya has refused to surrender them.

On Friday, the U.S. turned down an invitation from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to send Western judges to Tripoli for the trial of the two men allegedly implicated in the 1988 bombing.

"Libya must surrender for trial all those charged with the crime related to Pan Am 103," State Department spokesman Joe Snyder told a regular briefing.

"The United States and the United Kingdom have jurisdiction in this case. We expect Libya to comply promptly and in full."

This is the position that was set out in a joint U.S.-British statement issued on Nov. 27, Mr. Snyder told reporters when asked if Washington would accept Libya's offer.

Libya's offer.

have to do it if we are to absorb our immigrants successfully — we just cannot afford having an unstable economy, an economy with inflation, and an economy in which budget deficits are too large," he told Israel Radio.

Parliament must pass the 1992 budget before the year's end.

In September, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet approved a 79.1 billion shekel (\$33.9 billion) draft budget which would reduce the deficit to 6.3 per cent of gross domestic product from the 6.9 per cent forecast for 1991.

Russia committed to Mideast peace, will host multilaterals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Republic of Russia Saturday assured Jordan that it was committed to the same policies of the former Soviet Union with regard to co-sponsoring the Middle East peace process with the United States and was keen to promote peace in the region and the world.

Russian Ambassador to Jordan Yuri Griadonov also said that Moscow will host the multilateral Arab-Israeli talks as scheduled as it is keen on ensuring a lasting peace in the Middle East region, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The ambassador made comments to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at a meet-

(Continued on page 2)

Jordan extends recognition to former Soviet republics

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet decided Saturday to recognise Russia and to maintain diplomatic relations with it at the level of embassies. It also decided to make Jordan's embassy in Moscow as the Kingdom's embassy to Russia.

The Cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, also approved the recognition of the independence of the other 10 former Soviet republics, which have agreed to form the commonwealth of independent states, in addition to Georgia which has not joined the commonwealth.

The Cabinet approved the appointment of Mohammad Suqour as secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development and approved several recommendations by the Investment Encouragement Committee. The Council of Ministers also approved setting up a committee which will carry out the duties of Mahes Municipal Council, which resigned recently, until municipal elections are held.

Yeltsin consolidates grip on military, pushes reform campaign

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin roared ahead with reform Saturday, issuing an order to privatise state land, but his seizure of military hardware drew a warning from Ukraine. Fighting stopped in Nagorno-Karabakh, where Russia has withdrawn its troops.

Details emerging on documents signed by defence ministers of the new commonwealth reveal that the demand of Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan on forming their own armies was a major obstacle to forming a united armed forces.

Differences on economic, defence and foreign policy have troubled the new commonwealth of independent states in the week following its proclamation and four days after Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as Soviet president.

Mr. Yeltsin already has moved into Gorbachev's Kremlin offices, and on Saturday he mended fences with his vice president, Alexander Rutskoi, who had openly opposed Mr. Yeltsin's economic reform plan.

The Interfax news agency, quoting unidentified sources close to Mr. Rutskoi, said his differences with Mr. Yeltsin had been resolved and he also would move to the Kremlin.

The decree introducing private land ownership allows for the transfer of collective and state farms to private hands before the critical spring planting.

State and collective and state farms will receive land without charge based on the number of their members, but they will be required to reorganise as holding companies or cooperatives, the decree said, according to the Russian Information Agency.

The rest of the land will be placed in a land fund and sold on a competitive basis to anyone, but there will be a limit on how much can be purchased, the agency said.

The decree followed an order

on privatising state enterprises and shops. Another key element of Mr. Yeltsin's economic reforms is the Jan. 2 freeing of most prices, which worries many Russians and other republics.

The Russian Information Agency reported about 400 people had blocked two streets Friday in the Ural mountain city of Perm demanding better food supplies and the preservation of state-controlled prices. About 50 workers at the Krasny Mayak plant in Yaroslavl in central Russia threatened to go on a hunger strike unless they were given wages due a week ago.

Ukraine's representative to Russia, Victor Lisitsky, warned that his country "may take adequate measures to protect its consumer market, for instance, by setting up customs barriers along its border."

Ukraine and Belarus fear Russians will come and strip their

(Continued on page 2)

Bank governor warns Knesset against raising deficit

TEL AVIV (R) — The governor of Israel's central bank, ahead of a parliamentary budget vote under close scrutiny in Washington, warned legislators against adding to the budget deficit recommended by the cabinet.

Israel is seeking \$10 billion in loan guarantees from the United States to fund Soviet Jewish immigration but some U.S. economists say Israel might have trouble repaying the loans unless it reforms its state-dominated economy faster.

Jacob Frenkel, governor of the Bank of Israel, said: "It is very important that ... the Knesset (parliament) in its final debates not compromise on the budgetary framework the government has already adopted, and that we do not end up with a larger budget deficit."

"If we do want to promote investment and growth — and we

Israel, the biggest recipient of U.S. aid, has received no assurances it will get the loan guarantees it sorely needs to cut the cost of borrowing to finance the arrivals.

President George Bush asked Congress to postpone a decision until early next year. Congress is likely to weigh economic policy and progress in Arab-Israeli peace talks when deciding.

Less than two weeks ago, Mr. Frenkel unveiled major reform in the foreign exchange rate mechanism to facilitate planning by the government, export industries and foreign investors.

The new system, which determines the shekel will fall nine per cent against a currency basket by the close of 1992, also put an end to sporadic hard currency speculation in the market.

Pressure on the shekel eased and interest rates fell.

Islamic success in Algeria to send shockwaves through region

By John Baggeley
Reuter

ALGIERS — Signs of a fundamentalist landslide in Algeria's general election are bound to send shockwaves through other North African countries, southern Europe and wherever Muslim rulers do not base their legitimacy on an appeal to Islamic militancy.

The first results show the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) winning more than 80 per cent of the 206 seats so far decided in the 430-member parliament.

Seats where there is no outright winner will be decided on Jan. 16 in run-off elections between the two leading candidates.

The vote for the FIS, whose top leaders have been in jail since June, far outstripped predictions and marked an extraordinary turnaround for a movement which some said had lost its way since winning local elections in 1990.

The front, led temporarily by Abdul Kader Hachani, waited until Dec. 14, nine days into campaigning, before deciding against boycotting the election on Thursday.

One government minister recently told Western diplomats he

expected FIS to win 30 per cent of the seats in parliament. Diplomats said no party would win an absolute majority.

The result suggests the election was one of the fairest ever in the Arab World, the area of the world where democratic principles have had the most trouble taking root.

Sudan had free and fair elections in 1986 but the government which emerged lost power to a military junta three years later.

Jordan, Egypt and Yemen have liberalised their electoral systems. In Jordan, the most liberal, candidates stood as independents, not as members of political parties.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the most traditional of the Arab World's fundamentalist movements, scored well in Jordan and now has a say in making and breaking governments.

But the Algerian case marks the first time an Islamic movement has a good chance of taking power in the Arab World through democratic elections.

The repercussions will be felt most in neighbouring Tunisia and Morocco, where fundamentalists are working underground against

the political systems inherited from colonial rulers.

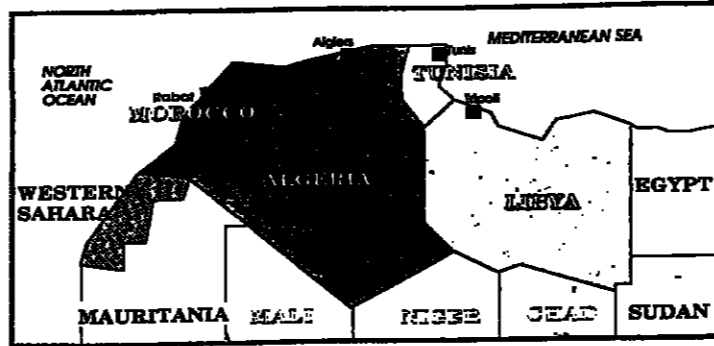
In Tunisia, President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali has followed in the footsteps of his predecessor, Habib Bourguiba, who used the law to crush the challenge from the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI).

Mr. Ben Ali, who came to power in 1987, at first played with the idea of legalising the MTI's successor, the fundamentalist Nahdha (Renaissance) movement, but he later closed down its newspaper and detained hundreds of members.

Nahdha leader Rachid Ghanouchi, who chose exile before the crackdown on his movement, has been a frequent visitor to Algeria and has good contacts with the FIS leadership.

The main fundamentalist opposition movement in Morocco, known as Adl Wal Ihsan (Justice and Charity), was never as powerful as the Nahdha. The government of the conservative monarchy banned the movement in January 1990.

Libya, sharing a long border with Algeria, has its own Muslim fundamentalist underground but little is known of its activities



beyond Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's occasional references to acts of violence it has committed.

Many Arab governments, with ideologies based on secular Arab nationalism, have justified their suppression of Islamic opponents by saying that parties based on religion are incompatible with multiparty democracy.

French commentators, who watch Maghreb politics closely because of its impact on France's large community of North African immigrants, have also argued that parties which believe in absolute truths can have no place in a system where laws are man-made through a balance between competing interests.

Critics of the FIS inside Algeria have used anti-democratic remarks by its leaders in their campaign against the movement.

Ali Belhadj, the imprisoned deputy to FIS President Abassi

Madani, said at Friday prayers last year, "Nationalism and democracy are terms which have no meaning. It is Islam and the Sunna (the tradition of the Prophet) which unite us."

Prominent FIS member Mohammed Houmeiri told worshippers this Friday that other parties should announce their "repentance" and that people who did not vote for the FIS would go to hell.

After the FIS victory in local elections in 1990, French politicians said the result was troubling on two counts.

An eventual FIS government in Algeria might both radicalise the 800,000 Algerians living in France and drive thousands of Algerian moderates to seek exile in Europe, they said.

Spain and Italy, also the targets of economic migration from depressed North Africa, feel the same pressures to a lesser extent.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Shamir expects normal relations with China

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Friday that he expects Israel will have diplomatic ties with China soon, Mr. Shamir's spokesman said. "He (Mr. Shamir) said he hopes and expects that in the framework of recent developments, relations will be normalised with China in the near future," Ehud Gol told Reuters. Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang made a confidential visit to Israel last week and met Mr. Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy. Israel Radio said at the time that China had urged the visit be kept secret but Mr. Levy disclosed details about it to a parliamentary committee. Defence Minister Moshe Arens secretly visited China in early November, according to security sources in Israel. News about the visit, the first ever by an Israeli minister to China, was suppressed by the Israeli military censor. A high-level Israeli trade delegation made an official visit to China immediately after Mr. Arens's trip. The delegation included Dan Shomron, head of Israel military industries and a former army chief of staff. China wants to attend multilateral Middle East peace talks in Moscow at the end of January. Israel is widely reported to have made Chinese participation conditional on normalising relations between the two countries.

Afghan rebels launch rocket bombardment

ISLAMABAD (R) — Rebels fired 92 rockets into the Afghan town of Herat Friday, killing four people and wounding 20 on the 12th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, official Kabul Radio reported. The radio, monitored in Islamabad, said nine rockets were also fired into Kabul where seven people were wounded. It was the third successive day of rocket attacks on Kabul, where 14 people were killed on Wednesday and Thursday. A guerrilla news service said Afghan rebels burned the effigies of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Afghanistan's ex-King Zahir Shah at a protest rally in a Pakistani border town marking the anniversary of the Soviet intervention in their country. The Soviet Union withdrew the last of its troops from Afghanistan, where they backed the Kabul government, in February 1989. The rally was organised by the Hezb-i-Islami party of radical guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who opposes a U.N. plan for a ceasefire and a transitional government leading to elections. The Hezb also rejects suggestions that Zahir Shah, living in Rome after being toppled in a 1973 coup, could head a future government in Kabul.

U.N. resumes aid to starving Somalia

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Friday the United Nations would send a small team of international staff back to the Somali capital of Mogadishu to supervise desperately needed aid. The U.N. chief expressed "profound shock and concern" over fighting in Mogadishu which he said had turned the city into "a nightmare of violence" and caused 20,000 deaths and injuries since Nov. 17. Ethnic clashes have raged in the country since guerrillas ousted Somali leader Mohammad Siad Barre last January. Since November fighting broke out between rival clans loyal to warlord Mohammed Farah Aided and Ali Mahdi Mohammed. In a statement, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said thousands were fleeing the city and many had no access to food, medical supplies, shelter and water. The United Nations evacuated its international staff from Mogadishu in September because of the fighting, but Mr. Perez de Cuellar said a small team, initially made up of staff from the U.N. Children's Fund, would return to aid local staff. U.N. Under-Secretary General James Jonah, who has negotiated relief aid agreements in the Horn of Africa, would return with the team, a U.N. spokesman said. At the same time, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said plans had been made to step up food and other supplies to the affected population "as soon as the security situation permits."

Philippines to buy Israeli-made fighter jets

MANILA (R) — The Philippines wants to buy 18 Israeli Kfir fighter jets and scrap plans to buy American F-16s because they are too expensive for the cash-strapped country, Manila's air force chief said Saturday. Major-General Loven Abadía told reporters the Israeli planes would cost only \$126 million, compared to the \$630 million needed to buy the F-16 jets. Each Kfir jet costs \$7 million while the F-16 fetches \$35 million apiece, Gen. Abadía said. The Israeli planes are badly needed to replace the obsolete F-5 jets that guard Philippine airspace, especially after U.S. forces withdrew from their last military base in the country in 1992, he said. American forces will pull out from Subic Bay naval station northwest of Manila by the end of next year after talks on a three-year phased withdrawal collapsed on Friday. Philippine military officials say Manila must modernise its navy and air force to avoid falling further behind its rapidly arming southeast Asian neighbours. Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia have F-16 fighter-bombers while Malaysia has bought a fleet of modern gunboats armed with missiles to protect its coastline. The Kfir, which has a top speed of Mach 2.3, can be armed with missiles and will bolster the Philippine military's modernisation programme, the officials said.

Iran's defence minister visits Qatar

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani Saturday discussed ways of boosting military cooperation with Iran's Defence Minister Akbar Torkan. The Qatari News Agency said the two also reviewed regional and Islamic issues. It gave no further details. Mr. Torkan, on his first visit to the Gulf state, arrived in Doha Saturday, two days after Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders ended a three-day summit in Kuwait. The GCC, an economic and political alliance formed in 1981 soon after the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war, groups Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Iran has been seeking to play a greater role in Gulf affairs. GCC leaders, winding up their first summit since Kuwait was liberated from Iraqi occupation, made only a brief mention of the Islamic republic, welcoming "positive developments" in bilateral relations which they wished to see further improved. Relations between Iran and Arab states, which generally supported Baghdad in its 1980-88 war with Iran, improved dramatically after Iraq invaded Kuwait last year.

Russia

(Continued from page 1)

ing held at the Royal Court, Petra said.

The views of Russia and Jordan are almost similar regarding world issues, a fact which served as a basis for cooperation in the past and which would continue in the future, the ambassador said.

The Crown Prince conveyed to the ambassador Jordan's best wishes to the commonwealth of independent states set up by former Soviet Republics and expressed hope that the commonwealth will pursue spearhead efforts towards achieving a lasting Middle East peace.

The Prince also expressed hope that Russia will maintain the strongest possible ties with Jordan.

The three-colour Russian flag now flies over the former Soviet embassy in Amman which has been taken over by the Republic of Russia in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Russian flag was hoisted Friday evening by Ambassador Grigoriyev.

In published remarks Saturday, Mr. Grigoriyev said that he was assuming the role of ambassador of Russia as well as the new commonwealth of the independent states.

The ambassador said Russia and the new commonwealth will maintain the strongest ties with Jordan and will seek to promote bilateral ties at all levels. He said Russia will continue to promote peaceful coexistence all over the world and will call for solving world disputes, including the Middle East conflict, through peaceful means.

Yeltsin

(Continued from page 1)

already bare shops for cheaper goods. They and other republics also worry about a shortage of rubles.

Compounding the economic discord are differences over the new commonwealth's defence and foreign policies, which will be the subject of high-level Monday in Minsk, the capital of Belarus.

Defence ministers of the commonwealth signed documents on military cooperation on Friday, which provides for a joint rather than a unified command as hoped for by Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, the interim head of commonwealth forces.

Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova insisted on forming their own armies, forgoing modifications in Marshal Shaposhnikov's concept. Marshal Shaposhnikov said those members entering the joint command will share military financing, but those that do not must pay for their own armed forces.

The commonwealth also has to work out what to do with Soviet military hardware. Russia has taken control over the largest and sophisticated aircraft carrier. The move drew a protest from Ukraine, where the vessel was stationed before it was transferred to Russia.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who met Friday with commanders of the prestigious Black Sea fleet, said Saturday he was "firmly convinced that Ukraine is and should be a maritime power," TASS reported.

Ms. Kravchuk also said the commonwealth would not play a role in foreign policy. "We do not intend to form any commonwealth structures to speak on its behalf on the international scene," TASS reported.

The commonwealth nations have agreed to coordinate their foreign policies, but each member can set its own international course.

Mr. Yeltsin, whose government is the central pillar of the commonwealth, has taken control of most Soviet troops and vowed not to use them in hotspots like the Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh and Georgia.

Malnourished children fill Baghdad hospital wards

By Jane Arraf
Reuter

BAGHDAD — "She looks better since I brought her here," said Aziza Duha, holding her emaciated baby, whose feet have turned blue and her hair red from lack of protein.

In the biggest hospital in Saddam City, home to more than one million of Baghdad's poor, doctors try to prevent children dying of hunger in a country rich with oil.

"I was feeding her biscuits and tea," Ms. Duha said this week, sitting on an iron bed in a ward crowded with young, desperate mothers and their motionless infants, who have the distended stomachs and skeletal frames

of the severely malnourished.

Ms. Duha, a 40-year-old mother of five, said her husband was away in the military, leaving them to survive on limited government rations of flour, sugar and other supplies. "He has to spend most of his salary on himself," she said.

"What do you eat at home?" a painfully thin 11-year-old boy, being treated for anaemia, is asked. He looks at the floor. The boy, the youngest of eight children, says in a whisper that his parents buy meat once a month.

A sweeping United Nations trade embargo banning exports and limiting imports since Baghdad's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait has left millions of once well-fed Iraqis scrambling for food.

An average monthly salary of 150 dinars, worth \$15 at the black market rate used by almost every Iraqi, does not begin to pay for groceries when powdered milk costs 80 dinars a tin.

Although Baghdad is allowed by the U.N. to import food and medicine, it says it has no way to buy supplies while foreign governments continue to freeze billions of dollars in assets.

Throughout Saddam City's Al Qadisiya hospital, black-robed women roam the halls pleading for scarce stocks of medicine for their children.

"Doctor, please," says one woman, crying and clutching the chief paediatrician as she waves a paper with the name of an antibiotic in limited supply.

One woman, 25-year-old Rasma Hobas, holds the hand of her mildly diabetic seven-year-old daughter. She has not been able to get insulin for days.

Another runs through the corridors wailing and beating her chest in grief after learning that her 32-year-old brother has died of tuberculosis, leaving seven children.

His doctor, Imad Arawee, said Ahmad Lufta had no immunity because he had not been able to get regular treatment for a year. He weighed 40 kilos when he died.

The Gulf war, subsequent rebellions in the north and south, and the U.N. sanctions have played havoc with

Iraq's once-efficient health system.

Relief agencies, which are victims of flagging international public interest in Iraq, have not been able to fill the gap.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which runs one of the biggest medical programmes, has met less than half its target for donations to Iraq.

UNICEF says the death rate for children under five has doubled since before the Gulf war, some from severe forms of malnutrition that had not been seen in Iraq for two decades.

Al Qadisiya's records show that 43 per cent of patients who died in October were victims of malnutrition, compared to 10 per cent in the same month last year.

U.S. says return of Buckley's bones does not end hostage issue

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States eulogised late hostage William Buckley as a courageous patriot Friday but vowed not to close the book on the Lebanese kidnapping ordeal when his remains are flown home.

With the return of Mr. Buckley's bones, found in Beirut and identified by local doctors as those of the former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) station chief, all U.S. hostages would be free or accounted for.

But State Department spokesman Joe Snyder said the hostage issue was not over as far as Washington was concerned.

"No, it doesn't close the chapter," Mr. Snyder told a regular briefing. "We want to see the release of the two remaining German hostages, and we want to see the return of remains, and we want to see the release of all those who are held outside the legal system in the region."

Two German aid workers are the last Western hostages in Lebanon and their kidnappers on Thursday reiterated demands for an exchange with two Lebanese

jailed in Germany. The bodies of one French and one British hostage killed in captivity are still missing.

Mr. Buckley's decomposed remains were dumped in Beirut early on Friday and taken to the U.S. embassy draped in a U.S. flag.

Mr. Snyder confirmed that local medical officials had made a preliminary identification of the bones as those of Mr. Buckley, adding that they would be flown to Dover air force base in Delaware for U.S. identification.

Mr. Buckley's remains were due to arrive on U.S. soil on Saturday, he said. The CIA said it was awaiting positive identification of Mr. Buckley's skull and bones.

"If it is final chapter in the tragic death of this courageous and dedicated patriot who gave his life to his country in the cause of freedom," said CIA spokesman Peter Earnest.

Mr. Buckley, a bachelor from Boston, was kidnapped at age 57 on March 16, 1984, and the Un-

ited States said he was later tortured to death.

The remains were identified by teeth, a rib fracture and bone structure with the aid of photographs sent from the United States.

His was the second U.S. body to be returned by captors in a week, with the body of murdered U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins dumped in Beirut last Sunday.

The family of Buckley plans a quiet graveside service in Arlington National Cemetery, a family friend said on Friday.

The friend, Annamie Arsenault, said the Buckley family has not yet set a date for the burial.

"They don't want to interfere with the Higgins ceremony," Ms. Arsenault said. Col. Higgins' body arrived back in the United States on Thursday.

Referring to Buckley's sister, Maureen Moroney, Ms. Arsenault said, "She is doing great. She is very pleased his body is going to be returned to the United States. That was a prime concern."

Moroney could not be reached for comment, but a relative at her home in Salem, Massachusetts, said she is being kept informed of developments by U.S. officials.

Israel said planning airlift if trouble in former Soviet Union

BOSTON (R) — Israel is planning a huge airlift of Soviet Jews should another coup or civil war take place in the former Soviet Union, the Boston Globe has reported.

One Israeli official estimated that 50,000-100,000 Soviet Jews a month could be evacuated, as happened when Ethiopian Jews were brought to Israel earlier this year, the Globe said.

A major component of the planned airlift would be direct flights to Israel from the ex-Soviet republics, where 60 Jewish Agency staffers are working with officials of those governments in 27 different locations, the Globe said.

"No one can guarantee that there will not be another coup or civil war," Jewish Agency Director Simcha Diniz was quoted as telling the Globe.

"Whenever there is disintegration, minorities are in jeopardy. We are very concerned about the Jews, especially in outlying areas. There are 200,000 Jews in the Muslim republics, for example," Mr. Diniz said.

"Between the economic and constitutional difficulties, we must prepare for the worst scenario. We are preparing an infrastructure so that every Jew in the Soviet Union can leave," he said.

Neither Mr. Diniz nor Israeli Knesset immigration committee Chairman Michael Kleiner would provide details of the proposed operation, but Mr. Kleiner likened the plan to the airlift of Ethiopian Jews earlier this year, the newspaper reported.

"We can take out between 50,000 and 100,000 a month," Mr. Kleiner said. "Arrangements have been made. We have a planes, and we can rent more planes. We took 15,000 out of Ethiopia in two days, so the sky is the limit."

In Israel, Mr. Diniz later told Reuters his statements had been misinterpreted.

"I said that Israel is capable of getting more than 50,000 Jews out a month. This doesn't mean we are making preparations. It means that with the direct flights we are ready at any time to bring a large number of Jews to Israel," he said.

Direct flights for Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union to Israel were inaugurated earlier this year. Until then, most of the immigrants reached Israel through Eastern Europe.

Earlier on Friday Mr. Diniz told a news conference 1.2 million Jews from all 15 republics of the former Soviet Union want to come to Israel and that 105,000 have acquired exit permits.

JORDAN TIMES
TEL: 667171

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Les Badabols
18:10 L'ecole des fous
18:30 Sieste Gaudre
19:00 News in French
19:15 Carat de notes
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Empty Nest
21:10 Murder She Wrote
22:00 News in English
22:30 Law and Order

PRAYER TIMES

06:54 Fajr
06:16 Sunrise (Dhuhr)
11:26 Dhuhr
14:12 'Asr
16:36 Maghrib
17:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swarthoff
Tel: 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623536
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.
625431
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
772661
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assumption International Church Tel.
685336
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy to clear and a rise in temperatures is expected. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 3/12
Aqaba 8/19
Deserts 2/13
Jordan Valley 9/18

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Wael Kharbail 665917
Dr. Tawfiq Qabail 623029
Dr. Wael Dumail 774800
Dr. Subeil Youssef 698903
First pharmacy 661912
Perdons pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637025
Naimish pharmacy 623672
Al Salma pharmacy 636720
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsian pharmacy 637660

IBBID:
Dr. Ahmad Al Hayek (—)
Al Shana pharmacy 275825
ZARQA:
Dr. Zaid Hawasneh (—)

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Aqaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 96 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 892228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 693800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 637111
Complaints (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 637111
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-52200
Queen Alia Int'l Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Khaldil Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Balad Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsian 664171/4
Shamsian Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845843
Al-Muasher Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 66612/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 66416/6
Ibbid, Al-Muasher 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafish 77511/26
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 60240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:00 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)

16:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:00 Paris, Geneva (RJ)
18:15 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:20 London, Brussels (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (MS)
14:00 Moscow (SU)
18:20 Larnaca (CY)
19:35 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Am

Low depression to bring more rain and snow

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and the other countries in the eastern Mediterranean region will face yet another low depression on Tuesday, bringing more rain with snow on high mountains, according to the Department of Meteorology.

A department official said Sunday and Monday are expected to witness fair weather with temperatures rising to 11 degrees and then 12 degrees Celsius. But on Tuesday, the country will be affected by a depression with cold polar wind blowing towards Jordan, bringing more rain, hail and probably snow, the official said.

The rain is expected to increase the amounts of rain water which has already been collected behind dams for irrigation in the Jordan Valley.

According to Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Dr. Abdul Aziz Wishah, the King Talal Dam, the largest in Jordan with an 85 million cubic metres capacity, now has 39 million cubic metres, up from a mere nine million before the rains of this season started.

At least two of the other dams, those of Kafrien and Wadi Shueib in the Jordan Valley, are already full while others are still to be filled, Dr. Wishah said.

The rains flooded streets in the capital and inundated vast areas, especially in the northern regions of the country in the past two days, according to sources.

The Meteorology Department said that the northern regions of Jordan received more than 60 millimetres of rain water in the 24 hours preceding to noon Saturday. It said that the least rain fall was in Jafer and Aqaba, with less than one millimetre.

TV and radio committee formed to choose programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Broadcasting and Television Corporation (JBTCV) has recently formed a special committee grouping experts from both the radio and television stations to select the various programmes to be aired on Radio Jordan and Jordan Television as of January 1992, according to Radi Al Khas, director general of JBTCV.

Mr. Al Khas said the committee will ask local, Arab and international companies to send samples of their productions to the committee, which will then select the most suitable ones for airing on Jordan TV and radio.

The corporation will also form monitoring committees which will be entrusted with watching the selected programmes and making their judgement on their suitability for airing. These committees will group experts from outside the corporation who will be replaced on a periodic basis.

However, those people will be assisted by people from Radio Jordan and TV. The committees will make recommendations on the suitability or unsuitability of programmes selected, may delete certain scenes or shots — particularly those conflicting with Jordanian traditions and values.

In another step to organise the process of selecting and purchasing TV programmes and series, which will be aired as of Jan. 1, 1992, the corporation also composed a programme procurement committee, headed by the TV director. The committee includes a representative from the Audit Bureau, head of the Financial Section at the corporation, heads of the first and second channels and head of the Control Section.

Man found not guilty of manslaughter but sentenced for using illegal gun

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Criminal Court in Amman has sentenced a man who killed a neighbour in self-defence to a three-month jail because he used an unlicensed gun in the course of defending himself.

According to the court verdict, Mahmoud Saleh Hussein Al Abed was found guilty not because he killed a man who had entered his brother's home, but because he killed the thief with a gun for which he had no licence.

The thief, identified as Harb Abdul Jalil, had entered the flat by climbing to the roof of a neighbouring building and dropping into the veranda of the flat. He then forced open its aluminium door, according to the court hearings.

The thief had broken several doors of the flat, which was not inhabited at the time, making a lot of noise and awakening Mr. Abed, the owner's brother, who lived in the lower flat, according to the lawyers for the defendant.

They said that Mr. Jalil attacked Mr. Abed with a knife when he was surprised. Mr. Abed shot at the thief in self defence.

The court also ordered the confiscation of the gun but acquitted Mr. Abed from the charge of manslaughter. According to court sources, the case has now been referred to the Court of Cassation for endorsement.

Ministry trying to raise funds for environmental strategy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is holding contacts with international organisations to raise funds to finance projects included in the national environment strategy, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Razzak Tubeishat said Saturday.

The minister made the announcement at a meeting by the Higher Steering Committee for the Implementation of the National Environment Strategy to review the first phase of implementing the plan in Jordan.

The steering committee is making arrangements for the formal declaration of the national strategy at a general conference which would endorse a national document on the plan, according to a statement at the end of the meeting.

Dr. Tubeishat told the meeting that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has been informed of Jordan's plans to implement the strategy and was requested to provide assistance to the country and finance this vital scheme, the minister said.

The national strategy has been prepared in cooperation with the IUCN and with financial help from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

According to Dr. Tubeishat, the national strategy will be ready for implementation before convening of the World Conference on the Environment due to be held in Brazil in June of 1992.

At the meeting, the national strategy was discussed, with attention focusing on an informational plan to explain to the public the objectives of this strategy. The meeting also discussed coordination between the committee and the various concerned government departments to ensure the implementation of the plan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art and ornamentation exhibition by Sabah Hadidi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jumana Al Hussein at Abdul Hameed Shuman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Twelve Angry Men" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.

Princess Basma opens education centre



HRH Princess Basma

AOABA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday opened a special education centre affiliated to the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Aqaba.

GUVS Executive Board Chairman Abdullah Khatib and Ahmad Sabah, chairman of Al Thaghr Society for the Handicapped, which will supervise the works of the centre, delivered speeches praising Princess Basma's role in the field of voluntary and social work.

Princess Basma also attended the Aqaba Islamic Society's celebration of its 25th anniversary.

The society's chairman, Nasrat Al Beetar, presented Her Royal Highness with the society's shield in appreciation of her efforts in the field of social work.

Princess Basma distributed awards to several of the society's kindergarten and school principals.

University of Jordan to begin awarding bachelors degree in midwifery

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Nursing Faculty at the University of Jordan which was established in 1973 will introduce a programme for a bachelors degree in midwifery and arrangements are being made to implement this programme, according to Dr. Rafiq Abdul Rahim, the faculty dean.

Midwifery is a vital profession for the whole community and the new plans are aimed at promoting the profession to cope with modern developments and to provide Jordan with qualified midwives, said Dr. Abdul Rahim.

The Faculty of Medicine is now holding contacts to ensure financing for the project, whose plans have already been drawn up, and efforts are being made to ensure sufficient staff for the new programme, she added.

According to Dr. Abdul Rahim, her faculty is divided into three sections: clinical nursing, mother and childcare nursing and community nursing. Graduates of any of these programmes are awarded bachelor degrees, she said.

With reference to the graduates with bachelor degrees, Dr. Abdul Rahim complained that although all graduates find work, hospitals of the private or the public sectors tend to treat these graduates on the same level with those who carry diplomas in nursing.

Currently, the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Jordan is in contact with other sectors and concerned authorities to establish a higher council for nursing to chart national policies on training nurses and employing them in hospitals and other centres, Dr. Abdul Rahim said.

Dr. Abdul Rahim also pointed out that the current nursing programmes introduced by the Ministry of Education in 1974 are no longer capable of coping with the needs of the present and cannot be considered as a real profession.

She said that only through university level education can nursing be considered as a profession. For this reason, she said, Muta University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology are following the University of Jordan's example by establishing nursing faculties to award bachelor degrees.

Apart from the University of Jordan, several nursing colleges exist in the Kingdom. These colleges, which are run by the government, are the Jordan College of Nursing in Amman, the Irbid College of Nursing and Midwifery, and Zarqa College of Nursing and Midwifery, she said.

Health Ministry sources had reported that some 500 non-Jordanian nurses are still employed in Jordan's private and public sectors hospitals.

Amman-Zarqa railway proposal studied

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The primary stages of a study to reactivate the use of the railway between Amman and Zarqa have been finalised, according to the Director of Railway Transportation Yahya Jdeitawi.

Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoul recently recommended this idea to the government as a method to reduce traffic accidents and pollution caused by traffic, Mr. Jdeitawi, who is also an engineer, said.

"The idea to re-use railways is an old idea that originated in 1975," Mr. Jdeitawi said. "Since then, three different studies on restarting railway transportation proved that it is not economically feasible in Jordan."

He added that with the increase in traffic problems, the time seems appropriate to look into this idea once again.

According to a source at the Ministry of Interior, an initial and brief primary study was proposed to the prime minister regarding this subject.

"If the initial plan is approved, it will be referred to the Ministry of Transport, after which a detailed study of the railway path will be undertaken. Topography and soil analyses will also be made," Mr. Jdeitawi said.

According to Mr. Jdeitawi, if the idea is approved, it is planned that railways with standard gages of international standards will be built.

"This new line should pass in the same areas that the Hijazi railway passes, but it will be built to avoid the sharp curves that are responsible for slower train speeds," Mr. Jdeitawi said.

He added that it is hoped that new locomotives and wagons will be part of this new project. "The new system, however, will only be slightly faster than travelling by car but not very fast as the distance between the downtown area of Amman and Zarqa is not very long as to necessitate speed," Mr. Jdeitawi said, emphasising that the entire project is still in the planning stage and if it is approved, 1992 will be the year when the idea will become concrete.

Crown Prince reviews relations, peace process with Bulgarian official



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meets with visiting Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev (Petra photo)

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, conferred at his office Saturday with visiting Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev and his accompanying delegation.

Mr. Ganev handed the Regent a message addressed to His Majesty King Hussein from the Bulgarian president. The contents of the message were not disclosed.

The two sides discussed Middle East questions as well as relevant issues connected with demography, water, armament and energy. Prince Hassan reviewed with Mr. Ganev scopes of Bulgarian-Jordanian cooperation and presented the Jordanian stand with regard to the ongoing peace process.

For his part, Mr. Ganev expressed his country's appreciation of Jordan's positive role, describing it as a constructive role helping to enhance the cause of peace.

Economic cooperation between Bulgaria and Jordan and the question of adjusting the balance of trade between them were the main topics discussed Saturday between Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Mr. Ganev.

The balance of trade between the two countries is in favour of Bulgaria and discussion covered means of increasing the volume of Jordanian exports to Bulgaria.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber as well as the delegation accompanying the Bulgarian minister on his visit to Jordan.

Mr. Ganev, who is accompanied by a five-member delegation on his four-day stay in Jordan, was received earlier by Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament for a discussion on bilateral cooperation in Parliamentary affairs and the Middle East situation.

Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi welcomed the Bulgarian minister, paying tribute to the friendly ties between Jordan and Bulgaria. Mr. Lawzi expressed hope that Bulgaria would buy more of Jordan's phosphate, cement, potash, industrial products

and vegetables so as to adjust the balance of trade between the two countries.

In reference to the current Middle East situation, Mr. Lawzi spoke in detail about the Gulf crisis, its consequences and the Palestine issue as well as Jordan's burdens resulting from these issues. Mr. Lawzi also spoke about the plight of the Palestinian people and Israel's repressive measure. He welcomed Bulgaria's offer to host the multilateral peace talks with Israel.

For his part, Mr. Ganev spoke about the democratic changes in his country, noting that the Muslim minority in Bulgaria was given its full rights like other citizens.

He said that Bulgaria appreciates the role of His Majesty King Hussein to attain peace and his country was keen on promoting friendly ties with the Arab World in general and Jordan in particular. Bulgaria, he said, supports all U.N. Security Council resolutions and regards Israel's settlement programme as impeding the current peace process.

Mr. Ganev extended an invitation to Mr. Lawzi to visit Bulgaria at the head of a parliamentary delegation.

The Bulgarian official later met Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat and discussed with him democratic changes in Bulgaria and Jordan in the past years. Dr. Arabiyat invited the Bulgarian parliament to send a delegation to visit Jordan and discuss par-

liamentary affairs.

Mr. Ganev reiterated his country's offer to Arab and Israeli parties to hold their multilateral talks in Sofia if they decide not to meet in Moscow. He said Bulgaria was keen on ensuring peace, stability and security in the Middle East region.

Mr. Ganev and Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour earlier held formal talks on means of increasing the volume of trade and bolstering economic relations between the two countries.

Dr. Ensour stressed the need for the implementation of joint Bulgarian-Jordanian agreements which called for increased trade of diversified products and the utilisation of the free zones in Jordan which offer privileges for investors. He called for a meeting as soon as possible for a joint committee to carry out these agreements.

Dr. Ensour also invited Bulgaria to join Jordan in carrying out joint ventures to produce commodities in demand by the national markets of both countries and others. He called for the establishment of trade centres in Sofia and Jordan to promote the sale of Jordanian and Bulgarian products.

The minister voiced Jordan's readiness to reach new agreements with Bulgaria to organise bank settlements for trade exchanges and called on Bulgarian investors to benefit from the numerous incentives offered them in the Jordanian market.

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- Al Farid Trading Est. - Tel: 698058/698059 ● Al Waha Stores - Tel: 814129
- Modern Pharmacy / Irbid - Tel: 242308
- Al Khair Wal Salamah Pharmacy / Zarqa - Tel: 992442

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Where do we go from here?

MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALISTS around the world must be joyous at the stunning victory scored by their Algerian counterparts. The results of the first round of the Algerian elections and the victory of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) are a strong message that must be ringing alarm bells all over the world. What makes the Algerian experience especially important is the fact that this will be the first time anywhere that Islamists reach power through elections. What would follow, either domestically in Algeria itself, regionally in the Arab World, or in the world at large, is any one's guess. Events of the last decade have shown the impossibility of predicting with any near certainty the trend that governs domestic, regional or global changes. However, the Algerian Islamists are expected to immediately introduce legislation that would Islamise Algeria. On the North African region's front, the FIS is sure to press its partners in the Arab Maghreb Union for increased Islamisation. They would naturally be expected to influence and help fellow Islamists in both Morocco and Tunisia. Although it assured the West — and France in particular — that it will not opt for confrontation, the FIS is also certain to press the issue of Algerian immigrants in France, oil and gas sales to Europe and North-South topics in general.

In the meantime, Arab and European governments must be apprehensive of the FIS win. Would Algerians usher in a new way of interpreting Islam or would they be emulating the Islamic revolution in Iran? What is their domestic and foreign policy agenda? What would be their effect, negative or positive, on Islamic movements world-wide? These are only a few of the questions that only time will provide answers for. From now until then, there is a lot of work to be done both in the region and in the world at large to ensure that the new world order would not again be polarised, either between North and South or between Islam and the West. Instead of heading towards conflict — domestic, regional or global — peoples and nations should opt for dialogue, cooperation and reconciliation. The comeback of religion has been mitigated by injustices and imbalances created by the new defunct post-World War II order. Unless those injustices and imbalances are addressed, and strongly, the future will at best be dim.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the Soviet Union has collapsed as a superpower confronting the United States, Washington feels it has the whole world arena for itself, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The Americans have flexed their muscles before the whole world by first crushing the Iraqi military might and by imposing a blockade on the Iraqi people whom they are starving and causing the Arab region a great deal of sufferings, said the paper. Being alone in the arena, the United States is not likely to find an equal opponent for a long time to come and not likely to give up its arrogance as a superpower ruling the world, said the paper. What is more likely to happen, though, is that the United States, not being confronted any longer, would soon be a victim of its own power and victim of the so-called new world order, the paper predicted. This non-homogeneous nation cannot maintain its strength for ever in the absence of a rival; and the American nation's ambitions are likely to end soon, the paper added. It said that the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern European bloc is more likely to create a climate for new wars whose consequences are difficult to imagine at this point in time.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Saturday called for the revival of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and Yemen. Since the summer of 1990, this council has been frozen but the four-member states did not officially announce its demise which means there exists some life in it, said Fahd Al Faneek. The writer suggested that Syria and Sudan be allowed to join the group of four to help end differences among Arab states. Indeed, he said, the revival of the ACC should be considered as the only means of overcoming the serious consequences of the Gulf crisis, helping to keep the Arab countries together and enhancing the Arab League. The writer said the revival of the ACC would help end the embargo on Iraq and help protect Iraq from disintegrating and help it confront the enemies of the Arab Nation surrounding Iraq. Once the ACC has been revived and expanded, it would group 60 per cent of the Arab World, forming a major economic power in the region, the writer continued. He said it is time that the freezing of this important economic grouping ended for the best interest of all the Arab countries.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Adjustment programme tested and proved effective

THE most credible evidence to the success of the economic adjustment programme agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is that the programme was tested before and proved to be very effective when it was implemented for the first time in 1989.

In order for us to judge the success, or lack of it, of this programme, we have to recall the objectives of the programme. The programme was meant to correct the distortions in the Jordanian economy, such as the excessive private and public consumption relative to the gross domestic product (GDP) and the resulting weakness of domestic savings, the large deficit in the central government budget, and the acute deficit in the current account of the balance of payments, especially the deficit in the commodity balance of trade. We shall examine the performance of the programme in each of these three scores by comparing the outcome in the programmes first year (1989) with what was prevailing in the previous year (1988), before the programme was introduced.

Statistics of actual performance indicate a definite success beyond doubt. The public consumption as a share of the gross domestic product declined from 26.2 per cent to 25.2 per cent. The share of the private consumption also dropped from 73.7 per cent to 69.6 per cent. Thus the public and private sectors combined were able under the programme to lower the share of aggregate consumption in the country from 99.9 per cent of the GDP in 1988, to 94.8 per cent in 1989. The domestic savings thus sprang from a negligible 0.1 per cent of the GDP in 1988, to a respectable 5.2 per cent in 1989. The programme overcame the first category of distortions with flying colours.

As far as deficit in the budget, before foreign grants, is concerned, the figure declined from JD 531.4 million, or 24 per cent of the GDP in 1988, to JD 470.9 million, or 19.8 per cent of the GDP in 1989, an achievement that is worth praising. The fiscal deficit, after grants, declined in turn from JD 336.6 million, or 15.2 per cent of the GDP, in 1988 to JD 166.6 million, or 7 per cent of the GDP in 1989.

Finally, when it comes to the balance of payment, we find that the improvement was remarkable. The deficit in the commodity balance of trade decreased from \$899 million in 1988 to \$733 million in 1989. At the same time, the deficit in the current account of the balance of payments dropped from \$288 million which formed 4.8 per cent of GDP in 1988, to \$104 million which formed 2.5 per cent of GDP in 1989.

These were the outstanding structural accomplishments of the economic adjustment programme in its very first year. Add to all that what the Jordanian people remember very well in restoration of stability of the Jordanian dinar exchange rate not only on paper, but also in the market place, the rebuilding of the Central Bank's reserves of foreign exchange which reached a point below zero at the first quarter of 1989, i.e. when the programme was adopted in April 1989.

The Gulf crisis interrupted and consequently suspended a very successful process of economic structural reform. It is high time to resume this operation now, without hesitation.

A lightning war, a vanished empire, a remarkable year

By Mitchell Landsberg
The Associated Press

THIS was the year of the Gulf war, one of the world's swiftest and most lopsided military victories.

In 1991, an empire collapsed in the Soviet Union, sealing the end of the cold war. Civil war raged in Yugoslavia, and Mideast peace talks between Israel and Arab nations got under way.

Saddam Hussein, George Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin, Rajiv Gandhi, Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Magic Johnson were names in the headlines.

It was a year of tremendous global change, change that came at an almost unprecedented pace. As 1991 began, the Soviet empire was shrinking. East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia — all had left the Soviet sphere in the previous year and a half. The United States was left as the world's only superpower.

But the United States had its hands full, too. Its economy was in a recession. Millions were without jobs, hundreds of thousands without homes. Americans were disturbed about their nation's drift and jittery about the prospects for a Gulf war.

In August 1990, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had invaded Kuwait in a grab for oil. With support from the United Nations, President Bush, sent U.S. troops to neighbouring Saudi Arabia. By the end of 1990, Mr. Bush had given President Saddam Hussein an ultimatum: get out of Kuwait by Jan. 15 or get forced out.

"It may turn out that the only language that Saddam Hussein understands is the language of force," Vice President Dan Quayle told American troops in Saudi Arabia on New Year's day.

Peace groups and some U.S. allies urged Mr. Bush to rely on an economic blockade to force President Saddam to his knees. But on Jan. 12, Congress granted Mr. Bush the authority to go to war.

In a sense, the debate over the war was a referendum on the U.S. role in what Mr. Bush liked to call the "new world order." What it meant was that the United States would act as a global sheriff. Once again, it would send U.S. forces to settle a dispute in which it was not directly involved.

This time, though, it would be acting with the support of much of the world. The military would have the resources — and the political backing — to do the job. And the United States wouldn't have the Soviet Union standing in its way. By mid-January, 700,000 troops from 29 nations were arrayed against Iraq, a half-million of them from the United States.

The war left a mess in Iraq. Among other things, the United States had to step in to save starving Kurdish refugees who were fleeing President Saddam's forces.

But President Saddam held on. He had staying power, which set him apart from some other world leaders.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide was sworn in as Haiti's first democratically elected president on Feb. 7 and was sent packing in a military coup Sept. 30. Soldiers took over the governments of Thailand and Mali.

Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam resigned under pressure and fled his country. French Prime Minister Michel Rocard was replaced by the country's first woman premier, Edith Cresson. India's Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a human bomb — a suicide assassin who brought explosives to a campaign rally.

Nowhere was the grip on power more tenuous, or the stakes more profound, than in the Soviet Union.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev was a hero outside his country, but the world's respect didn't count for much at home. As 1991 began, he found his authority being challenged from every corner.

The Baltic republics were pressing for independence. Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin was openly challenging Mr. Gorbachev's authority in Moscow. Ordinary Soviet citizens were growing increasingly impatient with Mr. Gorbachev's inability to turn around their economy.

In June, Mr. Yeltsin visited Washington and told congressional leaders, "the people of Russia are ready for democracy, ready for reform."

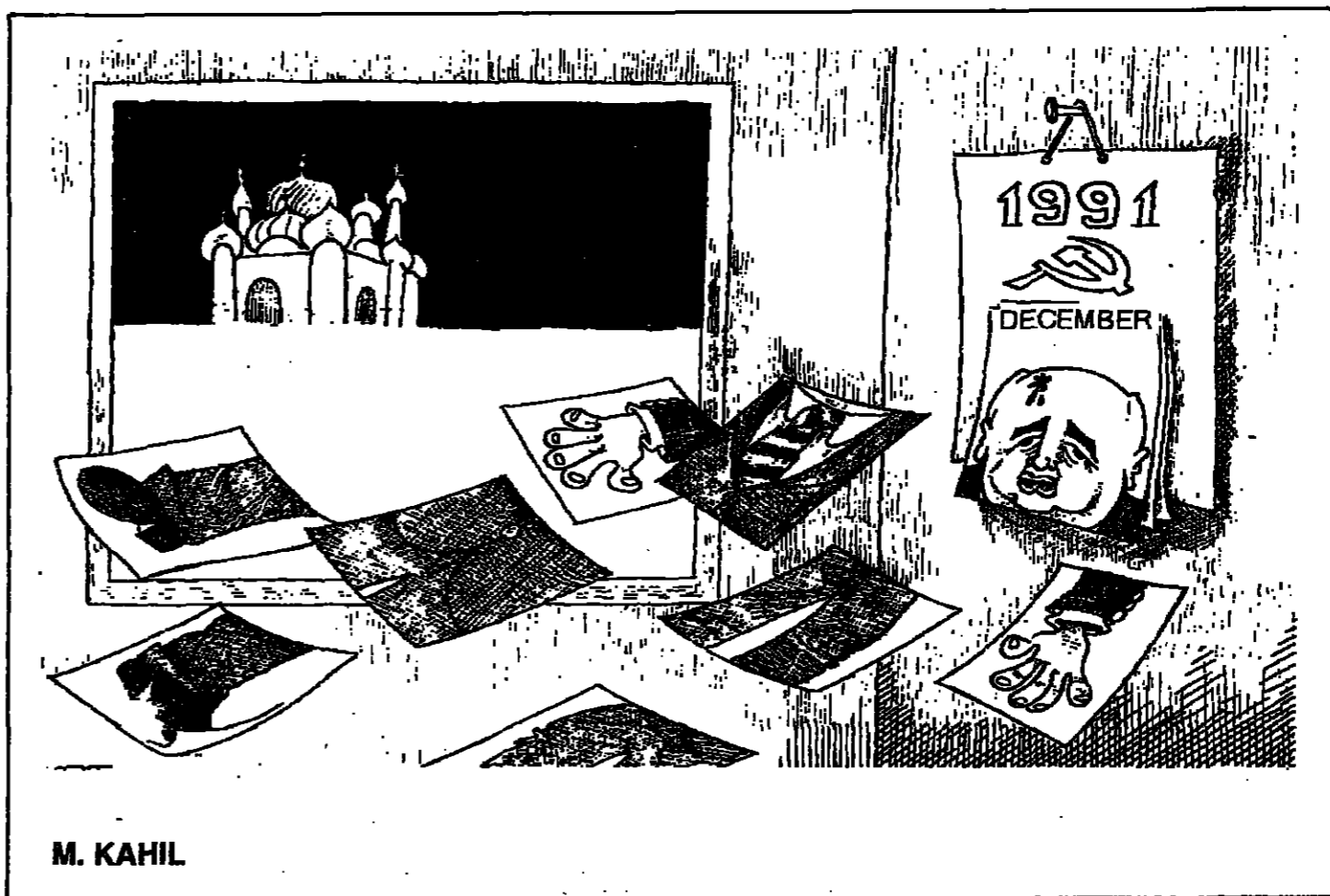
What they got, at least for a few horrifying days in August, was something entirely different. On Aug. 19, while Mr. Gorbachev was on vacation, old-guard communists seized power in a coup. Mr. Gorbachev was placed under house arrest — although that isn't what Soviet citizens were told.

"I should say that Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is now on vacation," Vice President Genady Yanayev, one of the coup-makers, told the nation. "He is very tired after all these years."

The coup leaders failed to arrest Mr. Yeltsin, who marshalled the forces of non-violent resistance and forced the plotters, in the end, to back down.

Mr. Gorbachev was freed. The Communist Party was cast into disrepute and despair. The world's oldest communist system was ushered out, a red shooting star that had lasted 74 years.

By mid-December, Mr. Gorbachev had agreed to Mr. Yeltsin's demands for a new, loosely tied commonwealth of independent states — the old republics. The Soviet Union, Ronald



M. KAHIL

Reagan's "evil empire," the nation against which the United States had measured itself for decades, was simply vanishing off the face of the earth.

"There will be no more red flag," Mr. Yeltsin declared. Elsewhere in what had been communist East Europe, Yugoslavia became mired in a civil war that cost thousands of lives in the rival republics of Serbia and Croatia. The Warsaw Pact — communism's answer to NATO — dissolved itself.

Suddenly, the world was a much different place. When the United States helped convene Middle East peace talks, its almost-silent partner was its old foe, the Soviet Union.

The Mideast became a less forbidding place in other ways, too.

On Dec. 4, Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson was released after almost seven years as a hostage of extremist Shiite Muslims. He was the last of the American captives in Lebanon.

British and French hostages were released earlier, but two Germans remained in captivity. Israel, meanwhile, kept hundreds of Arabs imprisoned in southern Lebanon.

The U.S. economy slumped into a recession and stayed there. The electorate became angry, resentful. Incumbents lost elections

past 17 months ranged from bankers and brokers to airline pilots and computer experts. Mid-level managers were particularly hard hit.

Even companies that once seemed to offer lifetime job security, such as IBM and Xerox, joined the list of corporations which dismissed workers. In many cases, corporate cost cutters handled layoffs with unusual ruthlessness.

Local newspapers across the country have been full of stories about employees being turned into the street after 25 or more years with the same company. Many have no chance of getting new employment.

The unspoken white-collar employment contract is being torn up," columnist Robert Samuelson noted in the Washington Post. "It was 'if I'm loyal to the company, it will protect me.'"

There are few white-collar workers now who feel safe and

their fears have an enormous psychological impact: roughly two thirds of the work force is made up by white-collar workers.

In previous slumps, the economy produced enough new jobs to absorb most of those thrown out of work. This time, tens of thousands of jobs simply disappear and no new jobs spring up.

"This recession really is different," said Jerome Levy, who runs an economic forecasting centre attached to Bard College in New York. "This is not the typical post-World War II 'inventory recession' or some other short-term disruption."

Mr. Levy calls the present downturn a "contained depression" because of the need to absorb excess capacity and excess debt as opposed to excess inventory are more depression than recession phenomena.

However, there are now safeguards in place to prevent a 1930s-style depression, he said.

As recession goes on, Americans lose faith in future

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The United States, troubled by a recession that refuses to go away, has slid into its deepest crisis of confidence in more than three decades.

According to a series of public opinion polls, the latest released this week, most Americans believe the economy is going from bad to worse, fear for their jobs and feel their standard of living is in danger.

American students no longer take it for granted that they will live better than their parents, a notion that has been part of the "American dream" through most of U.S. history.

Unemployment has overtaken drugs and crime as the public's main concern as U.S. companies announced layoffs at the rate of 2,600 a day, many of them affecting middle class employees bypassed in previous economic

downturns. In the 1981-1982 slump, white-collar jobs actually increased — by around 750,000 — while blue-collar workers were laid off.

Some economists compare the present sense of pessimism and gloom with 1958, a year which saw the first sharp recession after World War II. Others say they cannot remember any time of such malaise.

"There is... a deep-seated concern which I must say to you I have not seen in my lifetime," Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, told Congress last week.

British broadcaster Alistair Cooke, who has chronicled the United States for more than 40 years in a weekly "Letter from America," said recently he could not remember a time when Americans "complained more, in a tone close to despair..."

To crank up the economy, the Federal Reserve cut interest rates to their lowest level in 27 years, a

move which won applause from experts and the Bush administration and sent the stock market sharply higher.

The cut, announced the same day General Motors said it was dismissing 74,000 workers, failed to impress the average American. An opinion poll taken two days after the rate reduction showed that two-thirds of the public continued to believe the economy was worsening.

The survey, conducted for Money Magazine and ABC News, said a record 93 per cent of those interviewed rated the U.S. economy as "poor" or "not so good."

Many economists insist that such bleak views are not justified by any of the standard measures used to gauge economic performance. Compared with previous recessions, they say, the present one is relatively mild.

Unemployment, for example, now stands at 6.8 per cent. In 1982, it peaked at almost 10 per

cent and in the mid-1970s it reached 8.5.

In international comparisons, U.S. unemployment is lower than in many industrialised countries which manage to live with higher rates without the fear and sense of insecurity that has swept the United States.

Australia (10.1 per cent), Belgium (8.3), Canada (10.3), France (9.7), Italy (10.3), Spain (15.4), Britain (8.7) all have higher joblessness rates.

But figures do not tell the whole story. Not since the Great Depression of the 1930s has an economic downturn cut across such a broad spectrum of society.

"This recession has affected a larger cross-section of the work force than previous ones," said Thomas Kochan, who teaches labour relations at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "It includes higher-status employees who felt they were immune."

Those who lost their jobs in the

past 17 months ranged from bankers and brokers to airline pilots and computer experts. Mid-level managers were particularly hard hit.

Even companies that once seemed to offer lifetime job security, such as IBM and Xerox, joined the list of corporations which dismissed workers. In many cases, corporate cost cutters handled layoffs with unusual ruthlessness.

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Watching for the poetic allusions

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — Headline writers are the poets of the universe next door. These eye-strained wretches understand the restraints of space and meter that bind the writers of Shakespearean sonnets (three quatrains followed by a couplet) or Japanese haiku (three lines, having five, seven and five syllables). Like the poet, the headline writer tries to shoehorn great messages into a few words: some, to show an affinity to poetry, slip allusions to famous poems into their every headlines.

Most of us miss these allusions: they are private communications to the cognoscenti, phrases out of our literary past scribbled by our horseless headmen across a newspaper page, put in a bottle and thrown out to the sea of faces. Thanks to the members of the Poetic Allusion Watch, these furtive expressions of our subliminal culture are spotted when washed up on the beach of this column.

Consider a piece by C.G. Copic datelined Osijek, Yugoslavia, about the civil war between Serbs and Croats, beginning: "The River Drava flows lazily across the rich Slavonian plain." The International Herald Tribune headline writer capitalised on the sense of place in the feature lead by writing, "On a Darkening Plain, War and Reconciliation."

If memory's fond deceiver serves, that comes from Matthew Arnold's "Dover Beach," published in 1867, perhaps written around 1848, to suggest the poet's concern with the third wave of the European revolution. "And we are here as on a darkling plain/Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight/Where ignorant armies clash by night."

Let us be true to one another: When it came to the key word, the poetic allusioner choked. Darkling was changed to darkening, perhaps by another editor unversed in verse, or by the original headline writer who didn't remember the line correctly or who thought the archaic word was too much for a modern audience. Darkling dates back to Middle East as an adverb for "in the dark," and by the 18th century it was used as an adjective for "obscure, lying in darkness." James Russell Lowell, his horrid hand toiling in an 1884 ode to the poet Oliver Wendell Holmes, used it this way: "As many poets with their rhymes/Oblivious/darkling dust o'whelms." But "on darkling plain" is the most famous context of the moody word.

Above Russell F. Weiffley's review of "Fatal Decision: Anzio and the Battle for Rome" by Carlo D'Este, the New York Times Book Review headline writer chose "Someone Had Blundered." As Emil Kaczor of Detroit noted, this was from Alfred, Lord Tennyson's 1854 "The Charge of the Light Brigade," an apt allusion to the bloody beachhead at Anzio in World War II. "Forward, the Light Brigade/Was there a soldier dismayed?/Not though the soldier knew/Some one had blundered." In this allusion, the poet's two-worded some one was written in the modern style as someone, probably because someone hung up on the stylebook had goofed.

A nice literary, though not poetic, allusion was noted by Joel F. Studebaker of Princeton, New Jersey, in The New York Times' headline over a sports-page story from Chicago that begins, "Mark Grace capped a three-run rally in the ninth inning with a two-out

double." The head: "Grace, Under Pressure in 9th, Doubles to Cap Cubs' Rally." In The New Yorker magazine of Nov. 30, 1929, Ernest Hemingway, one of the mighty minds of old, defined guts as "grace under pressure."

An Op-Ed page editor at The New York Times headed a piece by Ernesto F. Betancourt "Let Cuba Be Cuba"; this, as Jeffrey Page of the Passaic, New Jersey, office of the Record notes, "assumes that I associate the line with 'Let Reagan be Reagan' and that I am satisfied with the secondary originality (it is from Jack Kemp, right?)"

This was a phrase popularised by Jack F. Kemp, who disclaims coining, in urging White House "handlers" to permit Reagan to express his true nature. It had previously appeared in January 1982 as a theme of a United States Information Agency global broadcast directed at Soviet imperialists to "Let Poland Be Poland."

When Bhagawan Shree Rajneesh was arrested for some wrongdoing, the Washington Post editorialist Meg Greenfield was heard to murmur, "Let Bhagawan be Bhagawan," a play on bygone from Sir Francis Netherstole's 1648 "Let bygones be bygones." The usage, however, was borrowed on a 1938 work by the poet Langston Hughes titled "Let America Be America Again," which states, "O, let America be America again — The land that never has been yet — And yet must be — The land where every man is free."

novel: "Circumstantial evidence, like finding feathers in the cat's milk, can be highly persuasive."

See Henry David Thoreau's journal entry of Nov. 11, 1854: "Some circumstantial evidence is very strong, as when you find a trout in the milk."

The alteration is appropriate," finds Gary Muldoon of Rochester, New York. "Thoreau's reference to fishy has to do with milk that's been adulterated — not exactly one of big business' scams du jour. Only by knowing of the problems of yesteryear does one readily grasp Thoreau's reference. The Times' mentioning of feathers makes the statement more accessible, conjuring images of Sylvester finally getting the jump on poor Tweety Bird."

Journalists are not alone in the poetic allusion dodge. In Arizona, before entering an airtight greenhouse called Biosphere 2 with seven other intrepid ecologists, Dr. Roy Walford, a gerontologist and survivalist, was quoted as telling the world: "Listen, there is a hell of universe next door waiting to be born."

That was not an idle reference to nearby California or Nevada; as Arnold Henderson of Highland Park, New Jersey, points out, that is an allusion to a fictional doctor's line in the poet e.e. cummings' 1944 "lxl" (or "one times one"), the uncaptivated cummings liked to paint words on a page, so here is his layout:

A world of made is not a world of born... We doctors know a hopeless case if — listen: there's a hell of a good universe next door; let's go —

The International Herald Tribune (New York Times Service)

Welcome to Marna House

By Nidal M. Ibrahim
Special to the Jordan Times

GAZA — Sitting in the living room wrapped tightly in a brown, woollen shawl, Alya Shawa stares at the television screen intent on the news. Exasperated that neither Jordanian, nor Syrian, Egyptian or Israeli channels have anything on the ongoing peace process, she pulls out her little short-wave radio, extends the antenna and starts moving the dials.

With the peace talks in Washington, Ms. Shawa constantly monitors the news for any new developments. After all, the source to beat all sources has to constantly update her information.

Ms. Shawa, manager of Marna House, a hotel in the Gaza Strip that is run more like a home for wayward reporters and visiting officials, has been called by some the Palestinian Ministry of Information. Rarely do reporters or visiting officials, be they from a foreign country, the United Nations or any other international organisation, set foot in Marna House without eventually seeking the help or advice of the 60-year-old Ms. Shawa in tracking down information.

"The boys (reporters) all call me 'mother,'" she says, the beginning of a smile creeping onto her face. "And if something in town happens, they call me."

Ms. Shawa has been running Marna House for 12 years. "It gives me pleasure to meet people and it allows me to do something for my country," she says. "And strangely enough, it made me realise how much I loved Gaza. It

allowed me to meet with people from Gaza."

Marna House's popularity with reporters and visiting officials grew because of Ms. Shawa's knowledge of the area and its people. A close friend of Haidar Abdul Shafi, the leader of the Palestinian delegation at the peace process, she is constantly updated on the latest details.

In addition to her understanding of Gaza, Ms. Shawa was constantly visited by the

young boys in the area and forged a close friendship with them. Usually, when journalists were in town, one of the boys would serve as a tour guide.

"Most of them (the boys) and in jail now," Ms. Shawa says as she pokes the fire in the fireplace, sending embers flying. "Some of them have left the country."

Despite the distance between them, Ms. Shawa says she is constantly in touch with

the boys. Occasionally, she even gets a letter from Ansar-III, the notorious Israeli prison that has been filled by the mass arrests of intifada activists.

So popular has Marna House become that the Palestinian delegates sometimes hold strategy meetings there. "They all tell me when we have a state this will be it (ministry of information). I tell them you bring me a state then, all I want is a tent to be away from all of you," she laughingly said, giving the impression she is tired of being on top of things.

Until she gets her tent, Ms. Shawa says she will continue to run her hotel, providing reporters and foreign dignitaries with a place to stay while in Gaza. And while staying there, Ms. Shawa is sure to impart with a little information on the state of the Palestinian struggle.

I walk between
darkness and light
the light of exile and
the shining memory of home.
The land I know
is given up to strangers.
There in the sunshine
do they feel my shadow?
— Mahmoud Darwish (Embroidered poem on top of fireplace in Marna House, in the Gaza Strip).



Alya Shawa, the manager of Marna House, a hotel in the Gaza Strip, sits in front of the fireplace with the radio at hand, ready to get

news on the affairs of the world (Photo by Nidal Ibrahim)

Jordan's Islamists jubilant

(Continued from page 1)

ment. "I think the Brotherhood sees the FIS victory as a success for the fundamentalist trend in the Muslim World," said an observer, who preferred anonymity. "They (the Brotherhood) are hoping that the Algerian trend will move eastwards, and with the three Islamic power centres — Iran, Sudan and Algeria — they expect to consolidate their power."

Senior government officials as well as members of other blocs in Parliament declined comment on the Algerian elections saying it was an internal Algerian affair.

The six-member independent Islamic Bloc in the Lower House expressed satisfaction with the Algerian election results.

"It is the democratic choice of the people of Algeria," said Mounir Bustanji, speaking on behalf of the bloc.

Hamas, the leading Islamic movement and a key player in the four-year-old Palestinian uprising, hailed the outcome of the Algerian elections.

"The Algerians have shown to the world that Islam is their genuine choice," said Hamas in a statement sent to Reuters. "Your great victory has painted signs of happiness on the faces of all your mujahedeen brethren here and has given them new hope and strength," added the group.

"The victory of the Islamic movement in Algeria also represents the yearning of the Algerian people to a better life," Mr. Bustanji said. "Indeed it is an internal Algerian affair and we hope that the

outcome of the elections will not only serve to achieve the national aspirations of the Algerians people but will also serve the interest of the Islamic Umma," he told the Jordan Times.

Asked whether he thought the Algerian election results would have any impact on the Islamic movement in Jordan, Mr. Bustanji expressed the "general opinion" that "the trend that we saw in Algeria is the most visible sign of the spread of Islam and Islam's teachings as well as of the Islamic struggle in the contemporary world."

A spokesman for another hardline fundamentalist faction, the Islamic Jihad-Beit Al Maqdes led by Sheikh Asad Bayyoud Al Tamimi, also welcomed the bold Islamists secured in the Algerian legislature. "We congratulate our brothers and allies for this victory, which is a victory for all Muslims," the unidentified spokesman was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Deputy Mohammad Abu Olein, who said his comments did not represent his Constitution Bloc in the House, expressed the opinion that few parallels could be drawn between the Islamic movements in Jordan and Algeria.

"The priority and interests of the Algerians are quite different from that of the Jordanian movement," he said and pointed out to the differences in the political systems of the two countries. "The situation of Jordanians cannot be compared with the Algerians' aspiration to justice," he said referring to the liberation that has introduced over the years.

Islamists triumph in Algeria

(Continued from page 1)

growth is stagnating, and unemployment last month topped 2.8 million people to include 9.8 per cent of the workforce.

"Will it still be possible for this country of human rights to welcome them?" editorialist Chantal Didier wrote in the newspaper L'Est Republicain.

The Socialist Party said the success of the fundamentalists was the predictable outcome of Algeria's long-standing one-party system.

"The rise of the FIS is, not surprisingly, penalising 30 years of single-party rule which did not meet the needs and expectations of the country," the party said in a statement.

In the Mediterranean city of Marseille, home to 50,000 Algerians, the director of the Great Mosque welcomed the election results.

"The people were able to put Algeria on the road to democracy," Hadji Aitli told Reuters. "Islamic Algeria has rediscovered its identity. This Dec. 26

will go down as the day of liberation," he said.

Commentators in Morocco attributed the FIS success to the failures of the old ruling party but differed in assessing the probable impact on Algeria's neighbours.

Mohammad Khalifa, member of the executive bureau of the large Istiqlal Party, said the FIS victory could have no effect on the Moroccan system of government.

But sociologist and publisher Ahmad Al Kohen predicted the other North African countries would find it difficult coping with the influence of fundamentalists.

"In Morocco, Islam has always been part of the social and cultural background. The king, the commander of the believers, represents spiritual authority and ensures respect for the principles of Islam," Mr. Khalifa told Reuters.

Mr. Kohen, who runs the monthly review Al Assas, said that on the contrary, if the FIS came to power in Algeria, they would have the means to help like-minded groups in neighbouring states.

Israel, S. Africa in joint missile project

ISRAEL has been secretly developing its Barak anti-missile missile in conjunction with South Africa, reports the fortnightly naval newsletter Navint.

The Barak, designed in Israel, is a vertically-launched missile intended for use against anti-air missiles. According to the newsletter, trial launches were conducted off the Natal coast in August by technicians from the South African government-owned weapons manufacturer Armscor and by Israeli experts.

Navint commented that the Israel-South African collaboration on the Barak was "certain to upset Washington, which has long tried strictly to ensure no missile technology reaches South Africa either from American or other sources." Washington will be particularly irritated in view

of Israel's recent agreement to join the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), an accord under which the leading industrialised states seek to restrict the proliferation of nuclear-capable missiles.

Development of Israel's other anti-missile missile, the Arrow, has meanwhile suffered a setback with the failure of the latest test launch, on 31st October. The objective was for the Arrow to intercept a missile simulating an incoming ballistic missile. Flight International, however, cited sources close to the project as saying that, although the Arrow left the launcher, it "did not behave as expected." The target missile was not engaged and telemetry (control signals between the Arrow and its controllers on the ground) was lost.

A similar problem afflicted the Arrow's first test firing, in August, 1990, when the missile had to be destroyed 4.8 seconds after launch, and the second test, in March 1991, when telemetry was lost after 26 seconds.

The Arrow had been scheduled for deployment in 1995. According to Flight, however, the latest failure will cause a delay of "at least one year" — CAABU.

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French unemployment climbs to 9.8 per cent

PARIS (AP) — Unemployment in France climbed to 9.8 per cent of the workforce in November, or 2,825,000 people, the labour ministry has reported.

The number of job-seekers rose by 29,500 from a 9.7 per cent overall unemployment rate in October, the ministry announced in a communiqué.

The ministry said that the rise reflected an increase in the number of people applying for unemployment benefits, as well as a steady stream of layoffs.

The figures followed Economics Minister Bérégovoy's predictions that government measures to ease unemployment are unlikely to show results until mid-1992.

The jobs rate is expected to be a key factor in regional elections scheduled for March. Polls show President François Mitterrand's governing Socialist Party badly trailing conservative and centrist opposition groups.



George Bush



Barbara Bush

Bush to help 'heat' Texan town after end of cold war

BEEVILLE, Texas (AP) — Just days after the final collapse of Soviet communism, President Bush found himself consoling Americans who made a living off the cold war that died with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Bush urged the south Texas community, which faces the 1993 closure of Chase Field naval air station, to turn to the federal government for financial help in attracting new businesses and retraining displaced workers.

"With the cold war over, our military needs have changed," Mr. Bush told about 3,500 people at a community barbecue Friday night.

"We'll do everything that we possibly can to help Beeville make the tough transition into this post-cold war world that we're living in," the president said.

The navy installation accounts for 29 per cent of the work force in this town of about 16,000. Chase Field is one of 34 military installations targeted for closing by a bipartisan committee whose recommendations were approved by the president.

Many Beeville residents say they blame Washington politics, but no necessarily Mr. Bush, for closing this navy airfield here instead of another one elsewhere.

"I think they blame Congress," said Lori Manuel, who runs an office supply store that gets seven per cent of its monthly business from Chase Field. "Really, us local people think that possibly something better than the U.S. government will come in and supply new jobs."

Turkey to lend Hungary \$50m

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey's Eximbank will extend a \$50 million loan to Hungary as part of efforts to promote trade with eastern Europe, the bank said in a statement.

The loan, with maturities from one to five years, will go towards Hungarian purchases of Turkish consumer and investment goods and be disbursed by the Central Bank of Hungary.

Money reveals how little money Bushes paid in taxes

NEW YORK (R) — President George Bush has legally avoided paying most U.S. state or local income taxes since taking office by taking advantage of differing tax laws in the three places where he has residence, according to a magazine report.

Money magazine said Mr. Bush and his wife Barbara paid \$3,596 in state taxes in 1990, less than one per cent of their gross income of \$452,732.

As a result, the Bushes were able to cut their total tax bill, including federal income taxes, social security and local property taxes, to about 29.5 per cent of their income, the magazine said. A typical U.S. family with income of \$52,011 paid 37.7 per cent of its income in taxes in 1990.

The Bushes live most of the year in either the White House or their holiday home in Kennebunkport, Maine, but their legal residence is a rented hotel suite in Texas, a state with no personal income tax.

Mr. Bush earned \$200,000 as president in 1990 and the rest of his income came from investments.

Taxpayers with an equivalent income in Washington would have paid \$30,000 in District of Columbia (D.C.) tax. Maine residents would have paid \$29,000, Money said.

The Bushes take advantage of a special exemption from D.C.'s income tax which frees 61,000 residents, including senators, congressmen and other politicians, from paying taxes there as long as they maintain a home elsewhere.

He legally skirts Maine's top tax rate by claiming a rented suite in the Houstonian Hotel in Texas as his permanent home. Since moving to the White House in 1989, Mr. Bush has spent 103 days in Kennebunkport and only

14 in the Texas hotel. Texas law allows Mr. Bush to call the state home as long as he promises to return to live there eventually.

The White House released the first family's federal tax returns and other documents to the magazine but declined to discuss them. Analysts who examined the records concluded some of the \$3,596 in state taxes the Bushes did pay in 1990 went to Maine as non-resident income tax paid in proportion to the amount of time he spent in the state in 1990.

'Economists can be wrong'

On the economic scene, Mr. Bush admitted Thursday his advisers were wrong to predict that the U.S. economy would recover from recession by now and promised to unveil proposals to stimulate economic growth soon.

Mr. Bush also said he was examining "entitlement" spending programmes — that include pensions and funds for the ill and poor — to see what could be done to stop them from growing by "leaps and bounds" and bloating government spending.

And he insisted he would not resort to protectionism despite recent American job losses and a large trade surplus with Japan, saying protectionism would be disastrous for the U.S. economy.

The president spoke at a news conference at which he introduced his choice for U.S. commerce secretary, businesswoman Barbara Hackman Franklin. If confirmed by the Senate she will replace Robert Mosbacher, who is leaving to become Mr. Bush's 1992 election campaign manager.

"What I've learned from this is that economists can be wrong," the president said when asked

why he continued to trust the advisers who told him the recession that began in summer 1990 would be "short and shallow."

The science of economics was "inexact at best," and the economy's recovery had been widely predicted three months ago, Mr. Bush said. He said he was not "recriminatory" about his advisers who had erred.

"You go back and look at not just my economic advisers, but the blue chip prognosticators, and I think many, including this non-economist you're talking to, have been wrong," Mr. Bush said.

The White House's chief economic guru, Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Michael Boskin, said in the summer that the U.S. economy had emerged from recession and would grow at 2.5 to three per cent in the second half of the year.

Other officials including Budget Director Richard Darman and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady concurred in Mr. Boskin's predictions for moderate growth. Many Democrats accused them of "rosy scenarios" for which there was little basis in fact.

The economy grew just 1.8 per cent in the July-September period, well below the forecast. Recently Mr. Boskin backtracked and said growth, if any, will be slight in the fourth quarter.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said last week that the economy was for all practical purposes still in recession.

Mr. Bush, whose popularity ratings suffered along with the economy this autumn, said his state of the union speech in late January would contain "some suggestions that I have already made and some new suggestions on what to do in a stimulatory sense to the economy."

Mr. Bush did suggest that he

was considering cuts in the sensitive area of entitlement spending, which affects American workers' pensions and medical care for the poor and elderly.

"When you take a look at some of the entitlement programmes, therein lies the real expansion of government spending. What can be done about them? We're talking about that right now," he said.

The president also said he intended to stick to at least part of a deal he made last year with Congress on deficit reduction by keeping "caps" on domestic discretionary spending such as money for education and roads.

Britain ranks biggest investor

In another area, President Bush reaffirmed his support for foreign investment in the United States and revealed that Britain, not Japan, was the biggest foreign investor here.

A statement issued by the White House press office said the book value of foreign direct investment in the United States was \$404 billion at the end of 1990. Of this amount, Britain had the largest investment, with \$108 billion, followed by Japan with \$83 billion and the Netherlands with \$64 billion, the statement said.

Foreign direct investment represented five per cent of the value of U.S. business assets at the end of 1990, the statement said.

"As other nations around the globe join up in embracing the concept of free markets, it is important to reaffirm our commitment to an open investment policy," Mr. Bush said in the statement.

"Foreign investors should not be treated differently from domestic investors. This policy provides the means for economies to grow and to prosper," he said. "All countries — both

sources and recipients — benefit from foreign direct investment."

A senior administration official said the announcement was aimed at putting in perspective the amount of Japanese investment in the U.S. economy — something that has often been criticised as Japanese buy into prominent American institutions such as New York's Rockefeller Centre.

"This highlights that it is not just Japan but other countries that invest here," the official said. "It also explains that foreign investment is an important element of our country, and it's desirable. It shows that when the president travels to Japan, this is a mutual relationship that we want to build on."

Mr. Bush travels Dec. 30-Jan. 10 to visit Australia, Singapore, South Korea and Japan. The president says he wants to promote American trade and convince the Japanese to reduce their large trade surplus with the United States.

He is taking over 20 U.S. business leaders with him on the trip, including the heads of the big three auto makers — G.M., Ford and Chrysler.

The statement said that at the end of 1990, the book value of U.S. investment abroad was \$421 billion.

But it said much of this investment had been made 10 to 25 years ago, and if it were to be revalued at market value it would amount to \$714 billion at the end of 1990. In contrast, the market value of foreign direct investment here would have been \$530 billion at the end of 1990, it said.

There were some benefits of foreign direct investment here, the White House said. It said that in 1989, employment by U.S. affiliates of foreign companies increased 16 per cent to 4.4 million workers.

Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	New York Close
	26/12/1991	27/12/1991
Sterling Pound	1.5535	1.5742
Deutsche Mark	1.5080	1.5166
Swiss Franc	1.5445	1.5516
French Franc	5.1580	5.1905
Japanese Yen	126.45	125.90
European Currency Unit	1.5468	1.5345

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.56	4.25	4.25	4.31
Sterling Pound	10.61	10.65	10.65	10.61
Deutsche Mark	9.31	9.68	9.62	9.43
Swiss Franc	8.25	5.18	5.12	7.67
French Franc	10.31	10.31	10.25	10.09
Japanese Yen	6.18	5.90	5.71	5.40
European Currency Unit	10.62	10.62	10.62	10.31

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	354.45	6.80	Silver	3.89	0.085

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6740	0.6760
Sterling Pound	1.2627	1.2690
Deutsche Mark	0.4435	0.4457
Swiss Franc	0.4983	0.5006
French Franc	0.1296	0.1304
Japanese Yen	0.5347	0.5374
Dutch Guilder	0.3932	0.3952
Swedish Krona	0.1213	0.1219
Italian Lira	0.0554	0.0557
Belgian Franc	0.02150	0.02161

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7590	1.7620
Lebanese Lira	0.0766	0.0770
Saudi Riyal	0.1794	0.1800
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1826	0.1835
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7250	1.7330
UAE Dirham	0.1826	0.1835
Greek Drachma	0.3725	0.3745
Cypriot Pound	1.5345	1.5460

* Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	18/12/1991 Close	25/12/1991 Close
All-Share	129.35	129.23
Banking Sector	106.82	106.07
Insurance Sector	128.35	128.97
Industry Sector	163.13	163.47
Services Sector	143.86	143.41

December 31, 1990 = 100

Kuwaiti fund lends Bahrain \$112 million

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — The Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) said Wednesday it would lend Bahrain 32 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$112 million) for key development projects.

A bank statement sent to Reuters said the fund would provide Bahrain with a 21-million-Kuwaiti dinar (\$73.7 million) loan to expand its main Sulmaniya Hospital.

The loan, which carries 4.5 per cent annual interest rate, would be repaid in 17 years after a five-year grace period.

The fund would also provide 11 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$38.6 million) to help Bahrain build a second causeway linking its capital Manama with Muharraq, which is on a separate island.

It said the loan carried a 4.5 per cent annual interest and would be repaid in 16 years after a six-year grace period.

The statement said the loans will bring total finances provided by the Kuwait fund to Bahrain to 40 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$140 million) but did not specify over what period.

AFESD established an investment office in Bahrain in November 1990, three months after Iraqi forces invaded the northern Gulf emirate.

Greek parliament approves '92 budget

ATHENS (AP) — Parliament has narrowly approved Greece's 1992 budget, which foresees spending of 6.57 trillion drachmas (\$36.8 billion) and revenue of 5.47 trillion drachmas (\$30.7 billion).

The budget was approved by 152 votes in favour and 145 against. All the favourable votes came from deputies belonging to the

ruling conservative New Democracy Party. With the exception of defence expenditures, 123 deputies from premier Andreas Papandreu's main opposition Panhellenic Socialist Movement voted against the austerity budget.

The remaining 21 parliamentarians from the Greek Communist Party and left coalition voted against the entire budget pack-

age. The Socialists said the budget failed to reduce public spending enough and was overly ambitious in its plans to increase revenues through the privatisation of state-owned companies.

The government plans to increase revenues by cracking down on tax evasion, broadening the tax base and selling state-owned companies. It also said the budget will attempt to curb spending in real

terms rather than through a large revenue increase.

The budget forecasts a 26 per cent increase in direct taxes, bringing them up to 1.2 trillion drachmas (\$6.7 billion), and a 22.9 per cent increase in indirect taxes, up to 2.95 trillion drachmas (\$16.5 billion).

Spending is to be kept down to nine per cent of the gross domestic product compared to last year's 17.4 per cent.

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